

Middlebury



Register.

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Middlebury Register.

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E. H. THORP, Editor and Manager.

TERMS:	
One Year,	\$1.50
Six Months,	.75
Four Months,	.50
Three Months,	.40

Advertising Rates on application.

WHEREAS, The town expenses of late years have been large, and are increasing; to the end that economy may be exercised in the management of the affairs of the town.

Resolved, That when appropriations are made by vote for expense that is to be incurred in and about the interests of the town, the respective officers are hereby directed not to exceed the appropriations made for specific purposes; and if there is an apparent necessity for a larger outlay than the special appropriation, a town meeting shall be called to act upon and direct as to incurring special expenses; and it is understood that this direction shall particularly apply to expenditures on the highway beyond the money appropriated thereto.

Mr. Slade read the report of the selectmen, as follows:

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the Legal Voters of the Town of Middlebury:

The undersigned board of selectmen, here, with submit their report, covering in the main their doings during the past year, and make some suggestions which in their opinion will be for the benefit of the town in the future. And, first, come to the performance of the duties of said office with no practical experience of the labors thereto pertaining, we have proceeded cautiously and with no little embarrassment in the performance of the trust so cordially entrusted to us.

Roads and Bridges.

Being called upon frequently to expend money in different parts of the town on the roads, we early determined to examine the same with reference to their condition. This we did, passing over most of them. The result of our visit was that we determined to repair the Moore hill, which was in a very bad condition. The contract for stoning and graveling the same for fifty rods was let to W. C. Moore, for the sum of two hundred dollars. The work was done well, and will be enduring.

Later in the season, and when it became apparent that the heavy rains were washing the roads badly, it was thought necessary to repair to quite an extent the road leading to East Middlebury, in order to save what had already been expended thereon. We, therefore, gravelized that part of the road from the village line to the foot of the Blind Baker hill, so-called. This portion of the road had not been repaired since it was first constructed. The easterly part of said road had been fixed, a year or two ago, and was in reasonable shape, so we did not expend any money east of the place aforesaid. At the foot of Blind Baker hill we stoned the road with stones taken from the lot of L. P. Boardman, a controversy having arisen between him and a former board of selectmen in reference to the condition in which the land was left. The said controversy was settled by the payment of twenty dollars, and in full for the stone taken for said road. This is in much the extra work that has been done on highways the past year. It must be stated, however, that the unusually severe winter in regard to snows necessitated a heavy expenditure on winter roads; in fact, in many instances almost the entire highway tax was expended in some districts on winter roads, and what was done therefore was necessary work, and paid for by orders on the treasury. The creek bridge in the village was replanked during the past year.

Town Hall.

A larger sum of money than was voted has been expended in fixing the basement of the town hall. The reason of this is that it was thought best to thoroughly put the entire basement in good condition. The vote contemplated only doing off a room or two rooms for a court room, whereas the repairs extend beyond, and embrace the whole basement, as before-stated. In the winter of A.D. 1884-5, the steam pipes were burst open oftentimes from the extreme cold and a large amount was expended to repair the same. The basement now is in excellent order, the floors being covered with cement outside the court-room, and partitions being constructed so as to entirely prevent the recurrence of frozen pipes or any other inconveniences resulting from an imperfect basement. It is desired that every taxpayer visit said basement, so as to view for himself the work that has been done. A large amount of dirt had to be removed from the basement before the work could be done in order to obtain the necessary height of room. The total cost of repairing of town hall is \$753.59.

The sum of \$202 was paid for concrete walk near to and around the town hall. The village paid one-half of the expense for the walk and the town the whole of the expense of the approaches.

Post House and Town Farm.

The expense of town farm shows a general decrease over the former year, and yet the expense of keeping the paupers per week seems to have increased. There have been a less number of paupers kept on the farm than in former years, yet it has cost as much for outdoor help, and the cows and horses eat just as much. It costs nearly as much to maintain a few as quite a large number, for the number of paupers does not affect the help necessarily to be obtained to secure the crops, and the salary of the main man remains the same. So work of any amount is performed by the paupers. Originally it was designed that a large portion of the labor would be performed by the inmates, but practically this is not true. The original idea was theoretical. At the time of our taking control of the farm, there had been a wonderful falling off from the inventory which had been taken about a month before, we are unable to state the reason. We found no butter on hand and no new milk cows, and after buying butter for awhile, two new milk cows were bought of G. C. Cady to furnish milk and butter until the cows on the place should come in about the 1st of June. About the same amount of produce has been raised on the farm as in former years, but the prices realized for products sold has been somewhat less. The inventory this year shows a falling off in the aggregate from one year ago. We are sure of the fact that the articles in number of bushels and pounds were there on the day of the inventory, as great pains was taken to have the matter accurate.

Two ballots sufficed to elect the third selectmen. They were as follows:

Whole number votes.....	258
Necessary to a choice.....	130
J. E. Dewey had.....	125
W. W. Chapman.....	110
J. W. Martin.....	18
Scattering.....	5

It took two more ballots to decide. They resulted:

Whole number votes.....	258
Necessary to a choice.....	131
J. E. Dewey had.....	124
W. W. Chapman.....	76
Scattering.....	11

We are aware of the fact that for several years there has been a growing belief that it would be for the financial interest of the town to dispose of said farm and buy a smaller place for the purpose of keeping the paupers. At the request of quite a number of taxpayers an article to that effect has been inserted in the warning and will come before you for consideration. It is a matter worthy of careful thought. No hasty steps should be taken. There are arguments pro and con. It is demonstrable that no man can make money on a farm and live all his life. Neither is a good farmer induced to take charge of the farm for small compensation. It is true also that many of the poor are or may be in such a physical condition as to help but little, if at all. If a smaller place could be obtained, with good soil fit for agriculture, near the village, not to contain over five acres of land, the expense of help, of a team and of much stock could be dispensed with and the expenses materially lessened. A portion of the U. S. Deposit money might then be loaned and the town saved from the payment of the interest thereon. In addition it is necessary to expend shortly (it ought to be done the coming year) from \$1500 to \$2000 for repairs on the farm. The buildings and fences are much out of repair. The cellar of the house is in bad condition. The water flows in and the same must be filled in and the house raised. The house needs shingling. A new horse barn is needed and the other barns are badly run down. Whatever the town sees fit to do your board are satisfied that some measures should be devised to render the expenses in this department less than they have been in former years. It may not be the best time now to dispose of the farm, if at all, but we would respectfully call your attention to the same, as we deem it our duty so to do. If the farm is not sold we would earnestly recommend that one or more disinterested persons be appointed to take the inventory on the farm every year. It is quite a temptation to swell the products on the farm, both as to amount and price, especially if the expenses have been large, as it largely depends on the amount of the inventory in ascertaining the amount it has cost per week for maintaining the paupers on the farm.

We do not think that heavy expenditures are needed on the highways the present year. We would recommend fixing and graveling the swamp road west of James Piper's as it is in very poor condition. Also the building of two sluices of stone near Caleb Smith's. The balance of the roads are in an excellent condition and unless heavy storms occur, no large amount need be expended in that direction. One thing which prevents many times the renting of the town hall to traveling companies is the want of proper scenery. It is estimated that the income the past year from rent of hall could have been increased at least \$150 if the hall had been thus supplied. The cost would be about \$500 to put in proper scenery.

Thanking all for the many kindnesses received and help extended in the performance of our duties, we herewith submit the foregoing.

On motion of Mr. Tupper the auditors' report was accepted and adopted.

Next came the choice of town officers. For town clerk Col. A. S. Tracy nominated Judge Knapp; and J. W. Martin, Milton A. Brooks. The ballot—C. H. Williamson, Fred Foote, Frank A. Bond and Clinton Smith being the tellers—resulted:

Whole number votes.....	304
Necessary to a choice.....	133
L. E. Knapp had.....	127
M. A. Brooks had.....	17
Mr. Slade moved the re-election of the old board of selectmen; and A. J. Marshall, George Hammond, J. W. Martin, W. R. Remelé and others were also put in nomination. The ballot resulted:	

Whole number votes.....

Necessary to a choice.....

J. W. Martin had.....

A. J. Marshall.....

George Hammond.....

W. R. Remelé.....

A. A. Fletcher.....

Scattering.....

Mr. Allen then withdrew in favor of Mr. Hammond; and Mr. Remelé withdrew. The second ballot resulted in the election of Mr. Hammond, the ballot standing:

Whole number votes.....

Necessary to a choice.....

George Hammond had.....

J. W. Martin.....

A. J. Marshall.....

Scattering.....

For second selectman, Mr. Slade nominated Josiah E. Dewey, whom he described as a good, square, upright and capable business man. Aaron J. Piper nominated W. W. Chapman, and some one else Giese Rich. Messrs. Marshall and Rich both withdrew before the ballot, which stood:

Whole number votes.....

Necessary to a choice.....

J. E. Dewey had.....

W. W. Chapman.....

J. W. Martin.....

Scattering.....

It took two more ballots to decide. They resulted:

Whole number votes.....

Necessary to a choice.....

J. E. Dewey had.....

W. W. Chapman.....

J. W. Martin.....

Scattering.....

Two ballots sufficed to elect the third selectmen. They were as follows:

Whole number votes.....

Necessary to a choice.....

H. D. Maynard had.....

W. C. Danyew.....

A. H. Matthews.....

W. H. Sheldon.....

M. E. Day.....

Scattering.....

Mr. Slade presented figures, gleaned from the town reports, showing that during the 21 years since 1865 it has cost on an average \$1296.20 to keep the poor on the town farm after crediting the farm with the produce raised upon it; the cost of boarding paupers had varied all the way from \$1.60 to \$4.39 a week. He thought the time had come for something to be done. A long debate followed, participated in by G. C. Cady, who thought the farm a good thing if rightly managed; by J. W. Halladay, who said no farm could be made to pay if its managers were changed every year, and by others. Mr. Tupper moved an amendment—which is shown included in brackets in the resolution as printed—and the resolution as amended was adopted.

Mr. Pinney was re-elected treasurer by acclamation.

There were several nominations for overseer of the poor. Albert Chapman moved that the selectmen do the business of that office; and the moderator announced that votes for selectmen could be deposited. The ballot was thus amended:

Whole number votes.....

Necessary to a choice.....

The selectmen had.....

O. F. Comstock.....

J. W. Martin.....

Mr. Monroe was re-elected first constable and collector, and John M. Nash second constable—both by acclamation; and were given jurisdiction of the State.

A number of nominations were made for first lister, but none other being seconded, Philo S. Severance went in by acclamation.

For second lister half a dozen candidates were mentioned. Mr. Slade suggested the importance of having a good clerical man on the board and nominated Henry L. Sheldon, who was chosen. The third member elected was Geo. L. Porter, after Judge Knapp had urged the importance of putting on a man of recent experience in the work.

The remainder of the board of officers as above given were elected without ballot or debate, except that the moderator, by request of Prof. Brauner, announced that he did not wish a re-election to the office of superintendent of schools because of the demands other duties upon him.

The new board of selectmen presented lists of highway surveyors and grand and petit jurors, who were elected, as follows:

County Grand Jurors—John W. Halladay,

B. S. Beckwith, D. E. Boyce, G. C. Cady.

Petit Jurors—Charles M. Remelé, Clarence Phillips, Junius W. Mead, Charles W. Matthews, J. E. Dewey, Allen R. Foote, J. B. Benedict, J. E. Crane, H. J. Chapman, J. P. Fenn, E. G. Seeley, Isaac L. Rogers.

Highway Surveyors—District No. 1, M. D. Parmelee; 2, Charles M. Remelé; 3, Harry Holden; 4, E. G. Piper; 5, H. C. Sessions; 6, George Eldredge; 7, A. R. Foote; 8, J. W. Mead; 9, D. E. Boyce; 10, W. C. Moore; 11, H. L. Phillips; 12 and 13, John Foley; 14, Henry Grant; 15, Charles G. Cady; 16, J. E. Dewey; 17, Robert Johnson; 18, Isaac L. Rogers.

The new board of selectmen presented lists of highway surveyors and grand and petit jurors, who were elected, as follows:

Memorial Resolutions.

At the regular communication of Union Lodge, No. 2, Free and Accepted Masons, held on Monday evening last, a committee was appointed to draw up and publish resolutions concerning the death of Hon. Edward S. Dana, which occurred Feb. 24, 1886. The committee have prepared the following:

WHEREAS, Almighty God in his Divine Providence has removed from his earthly labors to a higher field of use Past Master Edward Summers Dana of New Haven, Vt., for many years an active member of this Lodge; therefore,

Resolved, That while we grieve deeply in submission to the Divine will, it is with feelings of deep sorrow and regret we have learned of his separation from us, as we hope but for a time.

Resolved, That we will ever cherish a remembrance of his virtues, his munificence and useful labors as a Mason.

Resolved, That as a token of respect for his memory as an officer and brother, the jewels of this Lodge be draped in mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the MIDDLEBURY REGISTER, and an attested copy also transmitted to the bereaved family of our lamented brother.

PERSONAL.

Col. Albert Clarke, formerly editor of the St. Albans *Messenger*, will soon return to Vermont and take the editorship of the Rutland *Herald*.

Thomas A. Edison, the well-known electrician, was married the other afternoon at Akron, O., to Miss Nina, the daughter of Lewis Miller, a prominent manufacturer.

Mrs. Evelina D. Benedict, mother of Hon. G. G. Benedict, editor of the Burlington *Free Press*, died at his home in that city on Friday, aged 86 years.